

A RESOLUTION

BY: COUNCILMEMBER CLAIR MULLER

00- R-0707

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXPAND THE CITY'S COMPOSTING CONTRACT

WHEREAS, on April 5, 1993 The Georgia General Assembly amended OCGA Code Section 12-8-40.2 that mandated a restriction on the placement of yard trimmings (organic matter which, when composted, provides a soil amendment) into public landfills; and

WHEREAS, the 1993 amendment to the Georgia Code gave municipalities until September 1, 1996 to comply with that mandate; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the City of Atlanta began separate curbside pick-up of yard trimmings (even though the city was already not using publicly owned landfills for yard trimmings because of the benefit to our environment); and

WHEREAS, at that time, the City did not increase sanitary service charges, staffing, nor equipment in order to accomplish this expanded function of the solid waste department; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta did enter into a contract for the processing of yard trimmings; and

WHEREAS, the City has been unable to fulfill the promise to provide weekly curbside yard trimmings pick-up; and

WHEREAS, other cities by policy limit the amount of yard trimmings that the city will pick up weekly or have other ways of fairly charging for this service; and

WHEREAS, some cities require the purchase of a particular paper bag in which to place yard trimmings for pick up so that the fee can be included in the bag cost; and

WHEREAS, some citizens compost at home and do not wish to be charged for the pick-up of yard trimmings.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA that the City of Atlanta's current yard trimming processing contract be expanded in the following way:

Section 1: That the City have paper bags manufactured with the words ATLANTA COMPOSTS printed on them, to be sold at local retail outlets and local fire stations, which would be set at a price which would also cover the pick-up fee.

Section 2: That the City expand the current processing contract to include curbside pick-up of these bags that are printed with "ATLANTA COMPOSTS" on them.

Section 3: That the City begin a new educational effort to explain this new, fairer procedure.

Section 4: That the City expand the current processing contract to also include special storm event tree and limb debris pick-up.

Section 5: That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.